CHAPTER 2

THE POLICEMAN

NEW YORK CITY, THE FIVE POINTS, ALSO KNOWN AS THE WORLD'S WORST SLUM.

WHAT CHANGED THE FIVE POINTS INTO A LAWLESS DISTRICT...

PROSTITUTION, ROBBERY, MURDER... THIS PLACE HAD BECOME A HOTBED OF EVERY IMAGINABLE CRIME.

...AND DANCE HALLS...

...WAS THE BANDS OF CRIMINALS CRAWLING OUT OF THE UNLICENSED SALOONS...

THE GANGS.

CLICK

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

Grind

WHAT ABOUT THE GRAVE DIGGERS?

YOU MIGHT'VE HAD SOME WEIGHT AROUND HERE BEFORE, BUT YOU AIN'T NOTHING BUT A PATHETIC BUNCH OF GEEZER MICKS NOW.

Thmp

YOU BASTARDS, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO YOU'RE MESSING WITH?

I'M THE GRAVE DIGGERS'—

ress

CLICK

IT'S THE IRON BUTTERFLIES' REIGN NOW.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED.

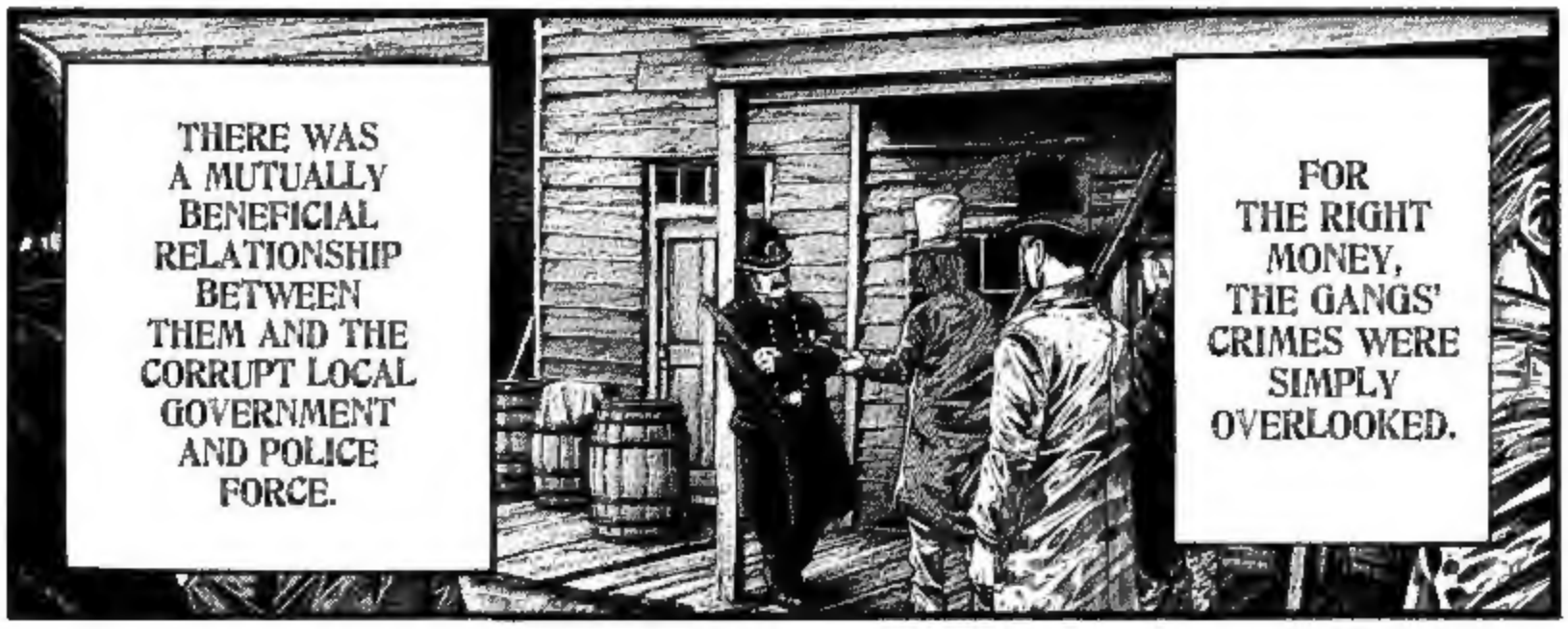
STAND ASIDE!!
WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU GAPING AT? THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE HERE.

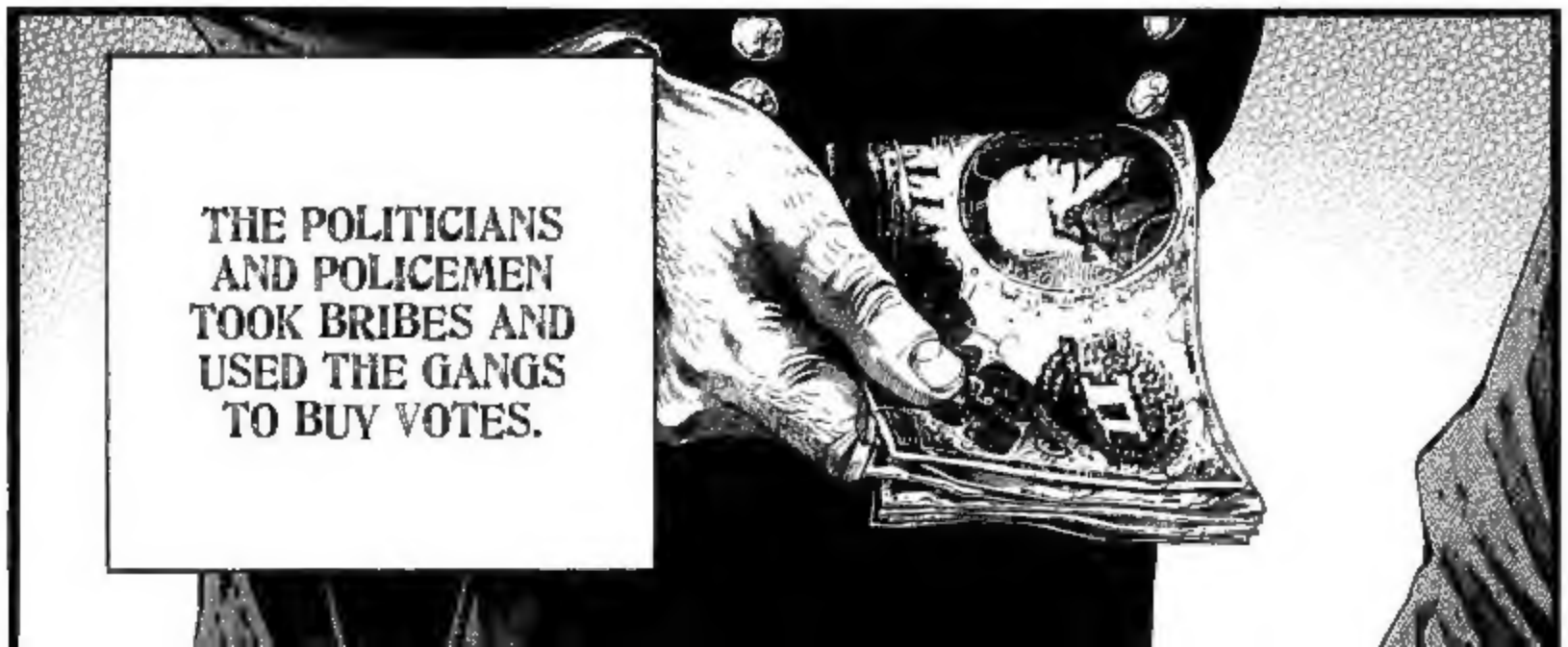
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR

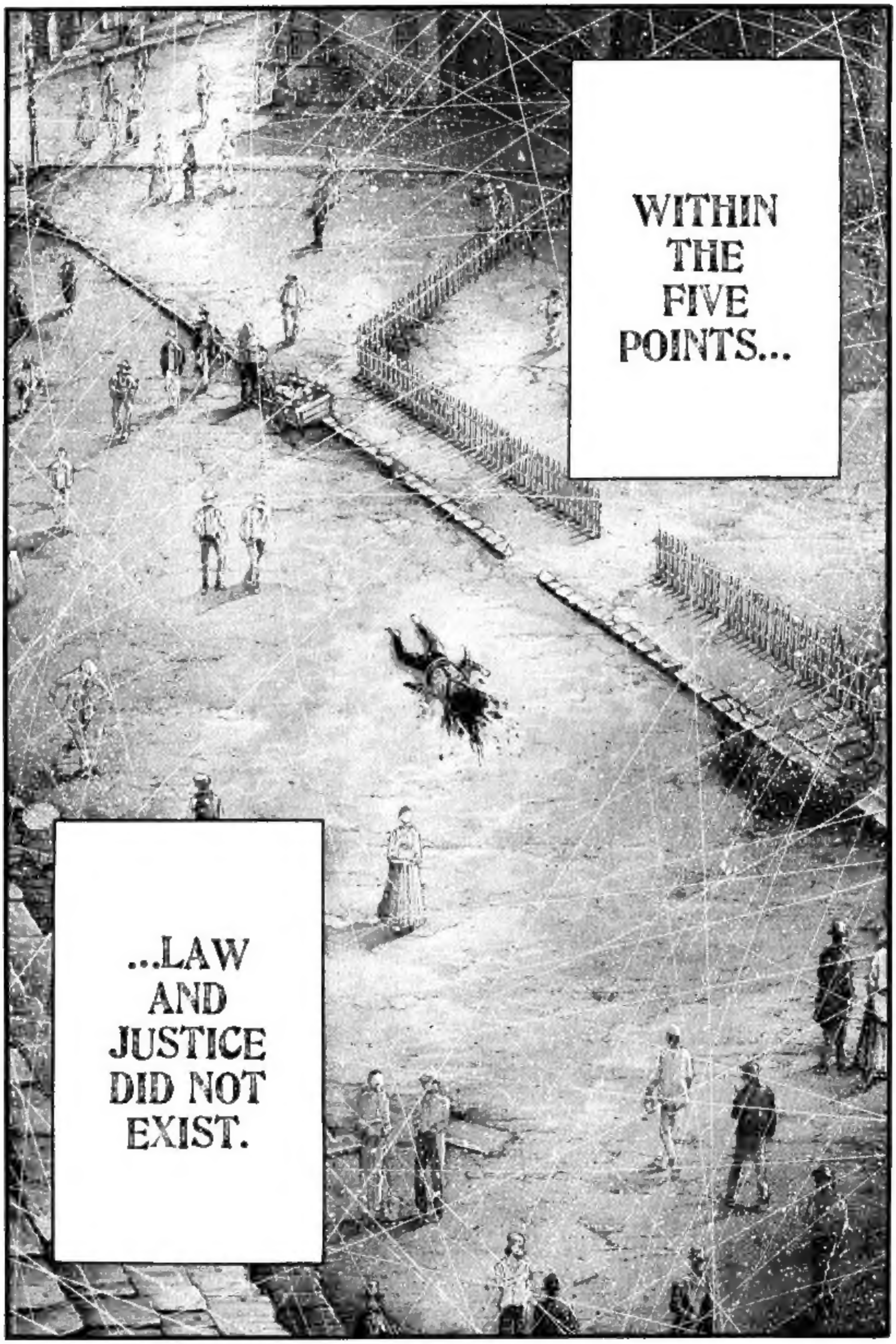
...AND THE POWER STRUGGLE OVER WHO CONTROLLED THE AREA WENT ON DAY AND NIGHT.
IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY, THE FIVE POINTS WAS HOME TO MANY GANGS...

JESUS...
YOU HAD TO GO AND MAKE A MESS AGAIN, HUH?
STEP

OKAY... THANKS.
HERE'S THIS WEEK'S PAYMENT.
HEH... INDULGE ME... I SCRATCH YOUR BACK, YOU SCRATCH MINE, EH?


THERE WAS A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM AND THE CORRUPT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLICE FORCE.
FOR THE RIGHT MONEY, THE GANGS' CRIMES WERE SIMPLY OVERLOOKED.


THE POLITICIANS AND POLICEMEN TOOK BRIBES AND USED THE GANGS TO BUY VOTES.


WITHIN THE FIVE POINTS...
...LAW AND JUSTICE DID NOT EXIST.

fwap
fwap

Luke Burns
Younger brother

Brad Burns
Older brother

.....

Bomf

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON SLEEPING?

YOU'RE USELESS!

FIVE MORE MINUTES ...

GET UP!

YOU SAID YESTERDAY YOU HAD A LEAD ON A JOB.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT?

POUR

POUR

POUR

POUR

WORK?

YEAH, WORK.

.....

OH, YEAH, THAT'S A PROBLEM. WITH SUCH HARD TIMES WE'RE FACING... THERE'S NOT A SINGLE EASY JOB OUT THERE.

WITH THAT ATTITUDE WE'RE NEVER GONNA GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.

...SERIOUSLY, COME ON.

YEAH... I KNOW.

creak

STOP BEING LAZY AND GO LOOK FOR A JOB...

ALL RIGHT, I'M OFF TO WORK.

Oy...

SURE THING. YOU GO BE A DUTIFUL LITTLE BROTHER NOW.

GENUINE HUMAN PLEASURE

Gene McDowell
The Grave Diggers' founder

NOW I KNOW YOU'RE WORKING HARD.

WASN'T IT JUST YESTERDAY THAT ONE OF YOUR BOYS GOT POPPED?

.....

I GOTTA LIVE TOO, Y'KNOW.

ANYWAY, THIS AIN'T ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOU PEOPLE.

.....

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

Pour

Pour

POP!

WELL, THAT'S THE RUMOR ANYWAY...

I OVERHEARD THAT IT WAS THE IRON BUTTERFLIES WHO DID IT.

SO...

JUST THAT THE IRON BUTTERFLIES HAVE BEEN RAKING IT IN LATELY, SO I FIGURED YOU MUST BE JEALOUS...

OH, NOTHING.

...WITH THE IRON BUTTER-FLIES?

YOU'RE TELLING ME TO START A WAR...

US COPS MAKE MONEY CLEANING UP YOUR MESSES... WE GOT NO COMPLAINTS AS LONG AS WE'RE COMPENSATED.

HAHAHA, I AIN'T SAYING YOU SHOULD GO THAT FAR.

HM...

I SEE
THAT'S A ROUNDABOUT WAY TO SAY IT, BUT...
THIS GUY'S COVERING THE DRUM BUTTERFLIES NOW
SEEMS HE'S MAKING QUITE A PROFIT AT IT, TOO.

YOU'RE ASKING US TO KILL THIS GUY, AREN'T YOU...?

...BUT I'M STILL A COP.

HAHAHAHA, I MAY BE CORRUPT...

...I WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF COVERING FOR THE IRON BUTTER-FLIES.

AND THEN I WOULDN'T NEED TO HASSLE YOU PEOPLE FOR MONEY.

THERE'S NO WAY I'D TELL YOU TO OFF ONE OF MY COL-LEAGUES.

HOWEVER, IF HE WAS GONE...

YOU GET IT, RIGHT?

MR. MCDOWELL, YOU'RE A SMART FELLOW.

BRAD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LAUNDRY AT THIS TIME OF DAY?
Clamp
THAT A PROBLEM?

Rinse
Rinse
Rinse

Rinse
Rinse
Rinse

LEAVE ME ALONE...

YOU REALLY ARE THE POSTER CHILD FOR USELESS OLDER BROTHER.

THAT...

HOW ON EARTH DID THE TWO OF YOU COME OUT SO COMPLETELY OPPOSITE?

HE MAY BE YOUNG, BUT HE'S DEPEN-DABLE... HE'S A GOOD BOY.

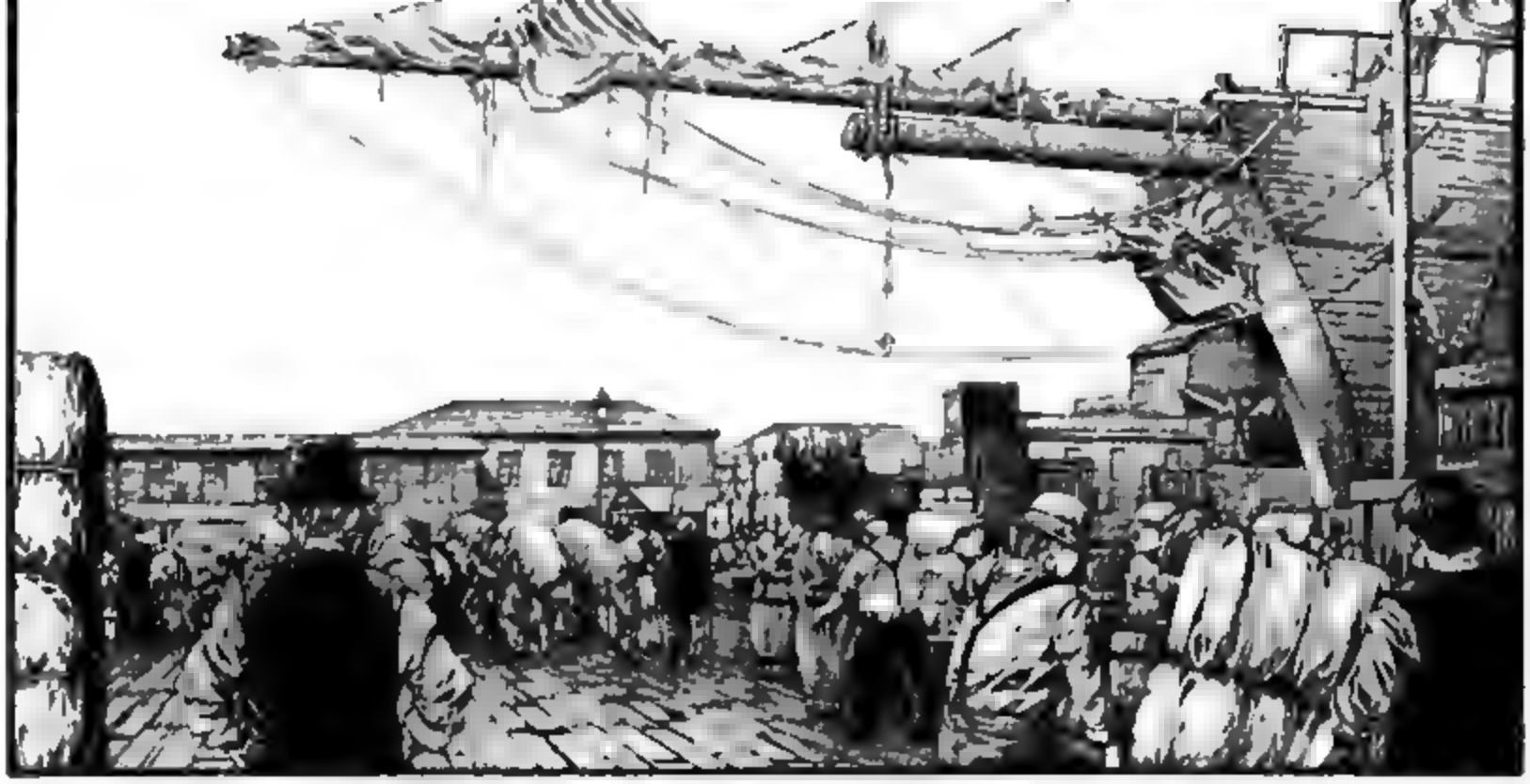
ON THE OTHER HAND, YOUR BROTHER LUKE...

...WOULD BE THE RESULT OF HIS OLDER BROTHER'S EDUCATION.

NOW LISTEN, JERK, I TAKE CARE OF THIS TENEMENT! THAT'S WORK.

SHUT UP, YOU OLD HAG. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU EVER WORK EITHER.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A JOB.



THE NEXT BOAT'S ON ITS WAY.
GET A MOVE ON!

YOU USELESS PADDIES!!
YOU WANT MONEY? THEN MOVE YOUR BODIES!
HEY! QUIT LOLLY-GAGGING AROUND.

YOU THERE, MOVE YOUR ASS!!

15-MINUTE BREAK!!

THAT'S IT, I'M DONE. I'M QUITTING THIS JOB!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, J.J.?

DAMMIT.

THIS IS NO PROMISED LAND.

US IMMIGRANTS ARE LUCKY IF WE MAKE 50 CENTS A DAY.

EVERY DAY WE'RE PUSHED AROUND LIKE DIRTY RAGS.

BUT, EVEN THOUGH IT'S TOUGH...

...I CAN DO IT, YOU KNOW, IF IT'S FOR MY DREAM.

HAHAHA, 'COURSE I DO. MY WHOLE BODY IS SORE...

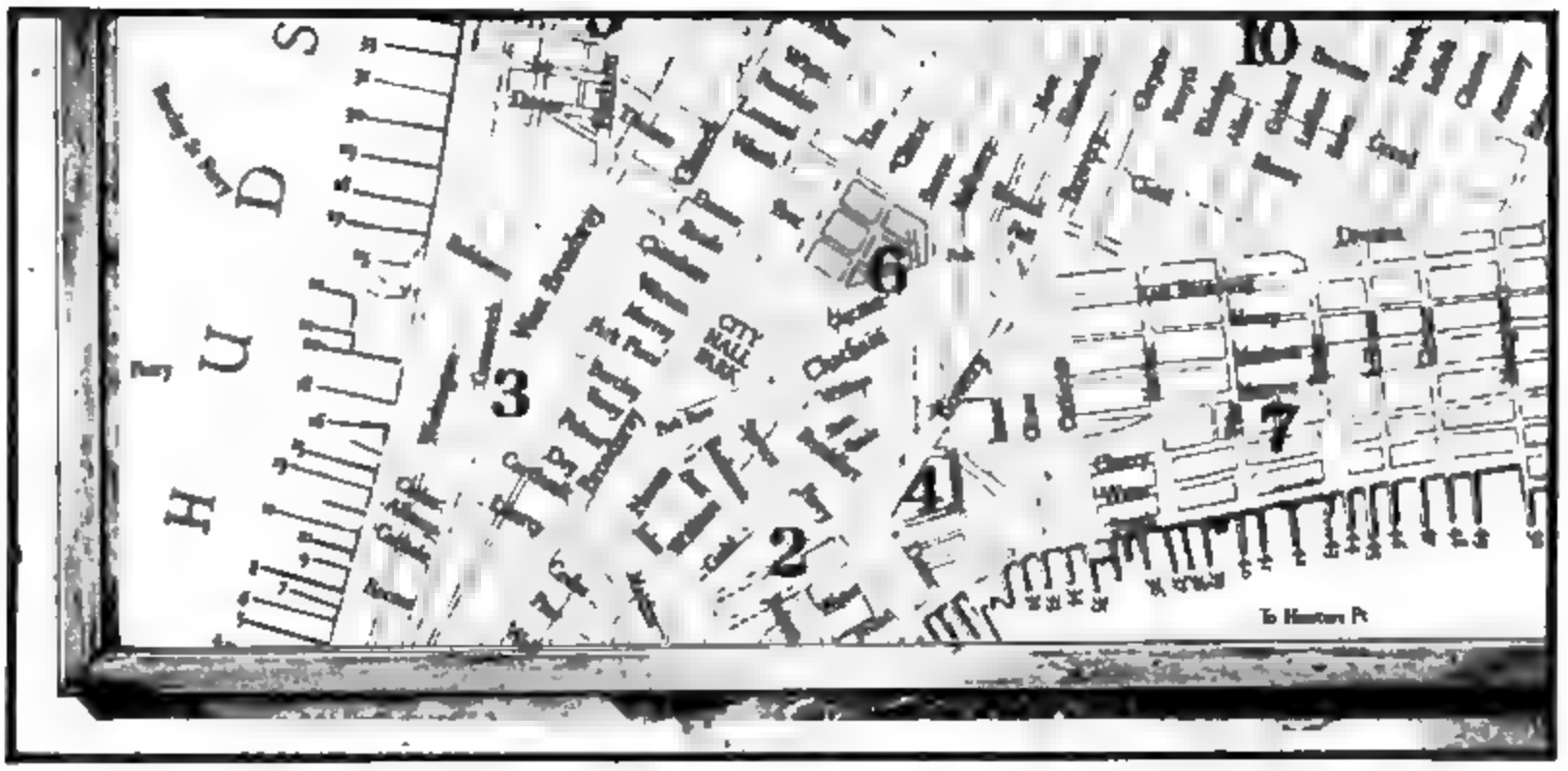
LUKE, YOU NEVER COMPLAIN. DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF IT?

DREAMING...

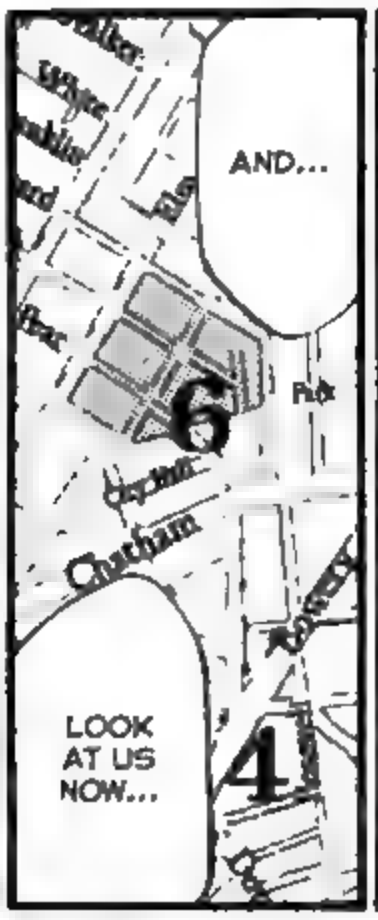
...IS FREEDOM, RIGHT?

DREAM, HUH...

GENEMIRE WEITBRIER


6
3
2
4
7
10
CITY HALL PARK
To Hudson R.

BOSS ...


AND...
6
4
LOOK AT US NOW...

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, THE FIVE POINTS...
...WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY UNDER THE GRAVE DIGGERS' CONTROL.

...I HAVE A JOB FOR HIM
TELL THE GRIM REAPER...

I'M HOME.

WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?

SO?

.....

LET'S SEE... I GOT UP AT NOON, DID THE LAUNDRY, GOT IN A FIGHT WITH OUR SPINSTER LANDLADY...

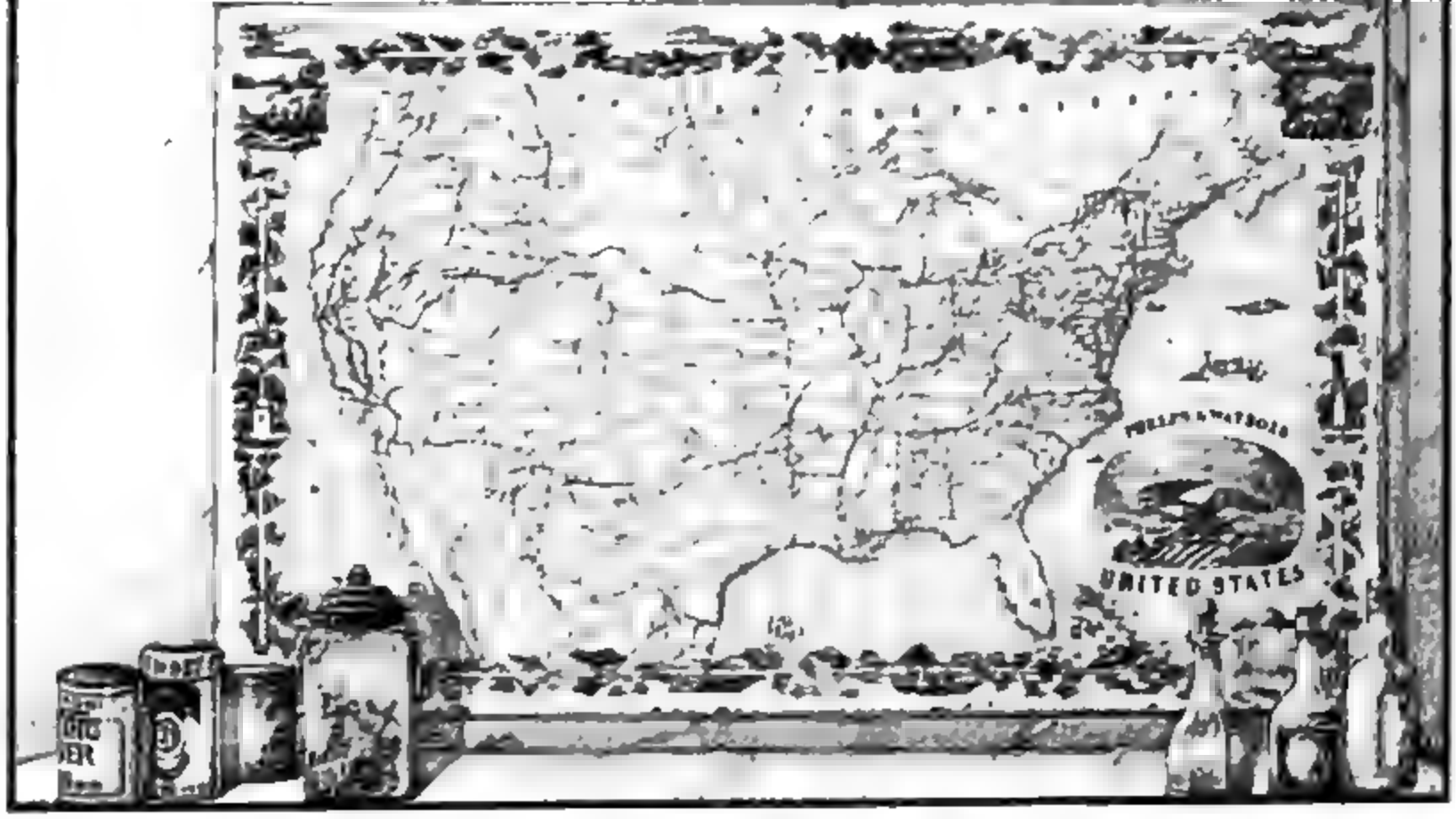
HEY BRAD, ON MY WAY BACK I SAW A POSTER FOR JOBS AT SMITH'S FIBER FACTORY.

OH YEAH?

COME ON, BRAD.

WE'LL NEVER SAVE ENOUGH MONEY THIS WAY.

Ting


UNITED STATES

YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, HAVE YOU?
BRAD...

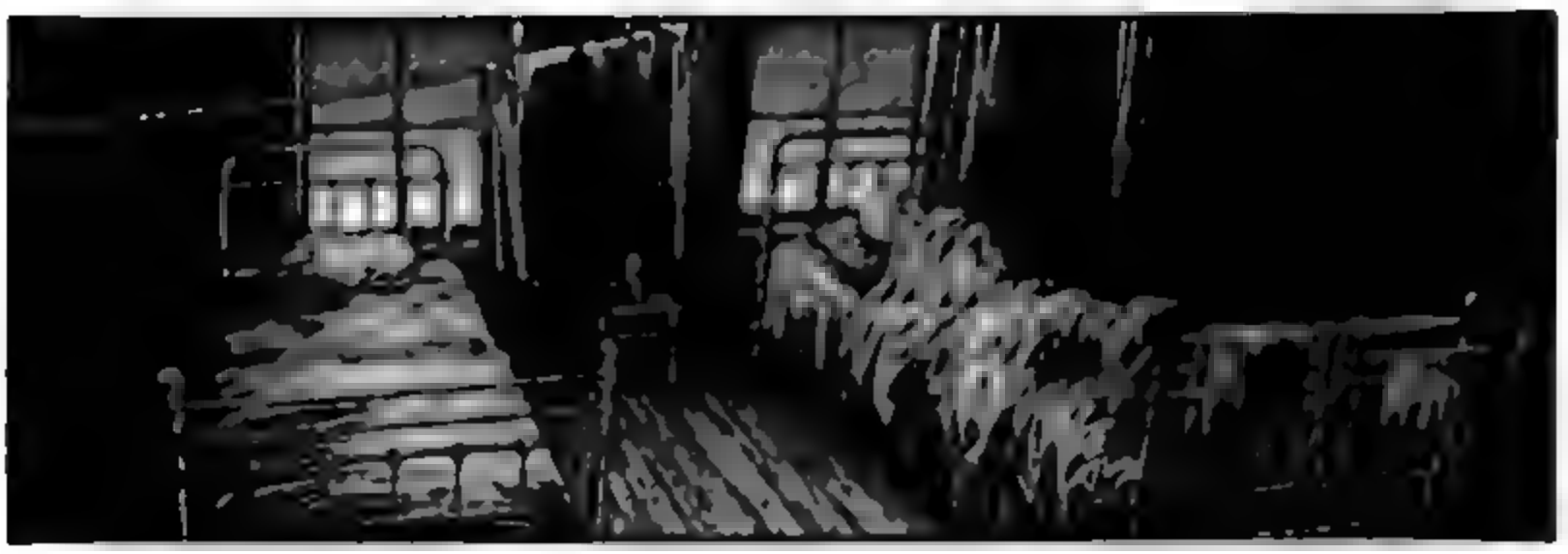
Hm?
Hey, Brad...

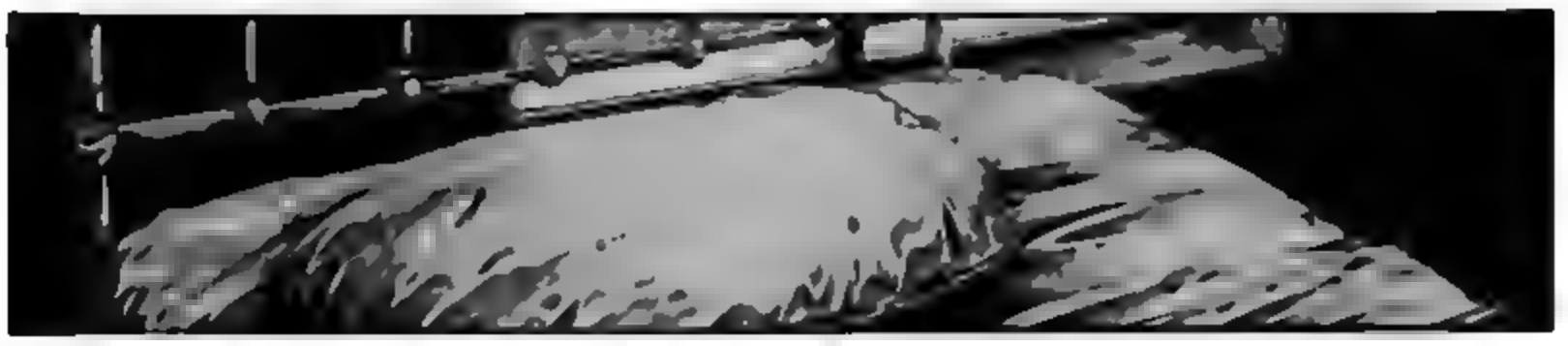
...won't we?
We'll get out of here one day...

Land that's just ours.

Then we'll head west and get ourselves a bunch of land.

"HELP WANTED
NO IRISH NEED APPLY"
In Protestant America, the
Catholic Irish were treated like
vermin, even discriminated against
for employment...
The only work open to the
villainous Irish was hard labor at
the ports or laying railroad
tracks, or with the strength that
labor bred, in one of the gangs.





...THE TARGET.

THAT'S...

THAT'S RIGHT. DON'T ASK FOR DETAILS.

Rustle

YOU JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.

.....

A COP...

YOU'LL GET THE REST AS USUAL...

...ONCE THE JOB IS DONE.

HERE'S A FIVE DOLLAR DOWN-PAYMENT.

UNDER-STOOD...

I THINK I KNOW WHY PEOPLE CALL YOU THE "GRIM REAPER."

UH-OH, YOU'VE GOT THAT SCARY LOOK AGAIN.

BRAD.

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU...

CHAPTER 2 / END

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